

the limits of its occurrence on Long Island; namely, May 19 to June 10 and Aug. 4 to Sept. 18.—W. M. C. BRAISLIN, M. D., *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Some Birds of Unusual Occurrence in Orleans County, N. Y.—During the past week the writer has accomplished a casual reading of a complete file of 'The Auk', from Vol. I, No. 1 to date, and finds that during the entire fifteen years of its publication it has contained only two items which pertain to the ornithology of this county, and those were of but a paragraph each. Our county has not, however, been so free from rare avian visitors as this sparsity of record would seem to indicate. On the contrary, there have been many occurrences well worthy of mention, although it does seem that no one has taken the pains to have them properly recorded. Permit me now to make mention of some of the most interesting of these, as follows:—

Colymbus holboelli. HOLBOELL'S GREBE.—A somewhat ancient record, dating back to May 1, 1873, on which day, Mr. David Bruce of Brockport secured a specimen near Murray. This bird was somewhat above the ordinary in size, measuring twenty-one inches in length.

Uria lomvia. BRÜNNICH'S MURRE.—Mr. F. A. Macomber of Murray has a mounted specimen in winter plumage which was brought to him in the first half of March, 1897, having been taken alive by hand, in a famished condition, on the ice of Sandy Creek. My collection contains the mounted head of another individual which was picked up dead from the Lake Ontario shore in the town of Kendall, by Mr. Harry Burnett.

Rissa tridactyla. KITTIWAKE.—A mounted specimen in the collection of Mr. O. B. Mitchell of Holley, taken by him on a pond in the town of Clarendon after a heavy storm.

Sterna caspia. CASPIAN TERN.—A finely mounted female of this species is in the collection of Mr. David Bruce of Brockport, taken by him in September, 1890, on Lake Ontario, in the town of Kendall.

Phaëthon flavirostris. YELLOW-BILLED TROPIC BIRD.—The extraordinary occurrence of this very southern bird in our county is recorded by Rev. J. H. Langille in his 'Our Birds in their Haunts,' page 615.

Branta canadensis hutchinsii. HUTCHINS'S GOOSE.—A specimen taken at Gaines, about 1888, is now in the possession of Mr. Newell Beekwith of that place.

Plegadis autumnalis. GLOSSY IBIS.—An individual of this species was shot in Tonawanda Swamp in May, 1889 and brought to Mr. George H. Hedley of Medina to be mounted.

Ardea egretta. AMERICAN EGRET.—Three of these birds wandered into our county in July, 1883, and two of them were shot near Kent on the 27th of that month. One of these is now in the possession of Mr. Edgar Ford of Carlyon, who shot it.

Nycticorax nycticorax nævius. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—The late Alfred Myhill of Medina once took a specimen from a marsh

along the lake shore. The mount is now, with the rest of his collection, in the possession of his father, Mr. William Myhill of the Ridge Road.

Rallus elegans. KING RAIL.—About August, 1880, Mr. Milo C. Webster of Knowlesville (now of Buffalo) while out on a hunt in company with Rev. J. H. Langille, shot a King Rail in a marsh on the lake shore in the town of Carlton. Mr. Langille makes mention of this specimen in his 'Our Birds in their Haunts,' page 400.

Porzana noveboracensis. YELLOW RAIL.—Two individuals, taken by Mr. F. A. Macomber of Murray near that place, April 21, 1894, and another the following year at about the same time. Two of these specimens are now in his collection,—the third is in the collection of Mr. David Bruce of Brockport.

Tringa canutus. KNOT.—A young male of the year was taken on the Lake Ontario shore in the town of Carlton, Sept. 9, 1897, by Mr. Percy Smithe of Medina.

Tringa fuscicollis. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.—Mr. Percy Smithe of Medina secured a male of this species from the lake shore in Carlton, Oct. 16, 1897.

Tringa bairdii. BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.—A mounted specimen in my collection marks the first occurrence (so far as I have been able to learn) of this Sandpiper in the western half of New York State. It was taken, together with one other of its kind, Sept. 3, 1895, at "the head of still water," on Oak Orchard Creek (just north of Waterport) by Mr. John Ritenburgh of Gaines. These two specimens slumbered unrecognized, in the possession of Mr. Ritenburgh until Sept., 1897, when they were turned over to Mr. Ernest H. Short. If Mr. Short recognized these birds as *Tringa bairdii*, he made no stir about the matter nor any record of the rare occurrence, disposing of one of them, meanwhile. The other I procured of him, December 2, 1898, and determined its identity forthwith. While these two specimens were remaining unrecognized, others were being taken in our county, were more promptly analyzed and recognized, and a published record made, thereby gaining a priority over these taken three years before.

Mr. J. L. Davison of Lockport, N. Y., while sojourning at Lakeside Park, this county, during the early fall of 1898, secured along the lake shore near that point, five specimens of *Tringa bairdii*, as follows:—Aug. 20, two; Sept. 8, two; Sept. 16, one. I am indebted to Mr. Davison and to Miss Mathilde Schlegel (who mounted them) of East Aurora, N. Y., for complete and detailed data regarding the taking of these additional five Baird's Sandpipers in my own county of Orleans. (See Forest and Stream, Jan. 7, 1899).

Tryngites subruficollis. BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER.—A finely mounted example is in the collection of Mr. David Bruce of Brockport which was taken in the town of Kendall, "fifteen or sixteen years ago."

Also one was brought to Mr. Ernest H. Short of Gaines for mounting, in the fall of 1897.

Numenius hudsonicus. HUDSONIAN CURLEW.—One taken from a flock of Killdeers in September, 1897, near Murray, by Mr. F. A. Macomber of that place. Now in his collection.

Cathartes aura. TURKEY VULTURE.—A young male taken in town of Kendall, May 23, 1884. (See Auk, Vol. I, No. 3, July, 1884.) Mr. David Bruce of Brockport now has this specimen. Also an adult male taken in the town of Clarendon, July 18, 1891, and now in the New York State Museum at Albany. (See Auk, Vol. IX, No. 2, April, 1892.)

Catharistes urubu. BLACK VULTURE.—An individual of this species was caught in a trap by a farmer residing near Shelby Center, on the 28th of May, 1892, and came under my observation while yet alive.

Surnia ulula caparoch. AMERICAN HAWK OWL.—Mr. David Bruce has a specimen in his collection which was taken near Holley a few years ago.

Empidonax flaviventris. YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER.—A mounted female in my collection taken May 26, 1890, at Hulberton by Mr. Jesse Craven. Other county taken specimens (one or two) have come under my observation also.

Icterus spurius.—ORCHARD ORIOLE.—“Several from gulch near Holley, in the spring of 1876” (David Bruce). “A pair (♂ and ♀) brought me in June, 1896 (first week) shot near Gaines, possibly would have bred” (Ernest H. Short). I have in my collection a typical nest of this species, taken about August 1, 1898, at Lakeside Park, by Mr. J. L. Davison of Lockport. A tiny bit of egg-shell found hidden beneath the lining of the nest, gave evidence of its occupancy during the past season.

Coccythraustes vespertinus. EVENING GROSBEAR.—During the remarkable flight of these birds to the eastward in the winter of 1889-90, several were taken at different points about the county.

Loxia leucoptera. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.—A mounted female of this species is in my collection taken at Holley in February, 1888, by Mr. Jesse Craven. Other occurrences of this bird in our county are also reported to me.

Dendroica palmarum. PALM WARBLER.—A male example in my collection taken near Holley, May 12, 1888, and other occurrences of this Warbler in the county have been reported. Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., of New York, to whom I recently sent the specimen, seemed surprised that my bird was *palmarum*, as he felt that *D. p. hypochrysea* was the form which should be found here. However, all examples taken in this and adjoining counties of western New York of which I know, seem referable to *palmarum*.

Icteria virens. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—On Memorial Day, 1895, near Shelby Center, I saw an individual of this species, using the opera glasses upon it at short range. I was led to the bird by first hearing it pour forth a most indiscriminate medley of all kinds of notes. Also Mr. Fred C. Lusk of Holley took a male in full plumage near that place May

8, 1880, and another occurrence which I have not yet had opportunity to investigate is recently reported to me from the eastern part of the county.

Sylvania pusilla. WILSON'S WARBLER.—Two male specimens shot near Gaines and brought in to Mr. Ernest H. Short of that place, May 28, 1897. Now in his collection.

Parus bicolor. TUFTED TITMOUSE.—I prize nothing which I have in my collection more highly than I do a fine male of this species, which was taken just south of Holley, March 17, 1889, by Mr. Fred C. Lusk. This bright bird would be a charming addition to our regular avi-fauna, but I know of no other records of its occurrence in this or adjoining counties.

In the foregoing notes, I have only made mention of some of the rarer birds which have been taken in Orleans County, but there yet remain unreported several unusual occurrences for this section which should become matters of record, and which, at some later day perhaps, I may report to your valuable journal. Some of these occurrences are fully as rare as any mentioned above, but as yet lack the authentic and complete corroboration which I hope to attach to them after further investigation.—NEIL F. POSSON, *Medina, N. Y.*

Late Migrants and Stragglers in Eastern Massachusetts.—Many birds stayed unusually late in Eastern Massachusetts this autumn, owing very likely to the mild weather which we enjoyed during October and most of November. Bluebirds, Chipping Sparrows and Field Sparrows, which generally disappear in the first week of November, were seen as late as the 13th of that month. The Blackbirds also prolonged their stay longer than usual; I saw a flock of at least thirty Cowbirds in Belmont associated, up to Nov. 13, with over two hundred Red-wings and some Rusty Grackles. The last Cowbird was seen on Nov. 21; on Nov. 13, I saw three Bronzed Grackles. On Nov. 1 Mr. Faxon and I saw a Lincoln's Finch, and on Nov. 5 I saw an immature White-crowned Sparrow. The height of the migration of both of these birds is about Oct. 1, and the latest dates hitherto noted for either are from a week to ten days earlier than those above recorded. On Nov. 3, I saw a Black-throated Green Warbler in Cambridge.

There have been also three interesting stragglers in this vicinity during November. On the 2d of November I found a female Wilson's Blackcap in Belmont; the bird stayed in the same locality till Nov. 20, and uttered when startled a curious wren-like *kek, kek*, which I have never before heard. Believing that the bird would eventually starve or freeze to death, I asked a friend on the 20th to shoot it.

On Nov. 5th I saw a European Goldfinch (*Carduelis*) in Arlington. The bird behaved like any wild bird. On Oct. 26, and again on Nov. 17, I saw in Belmont a Mockingbird. I placed food near the spot where I saw the bird, but have not since seen it.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Belmont, Mass.*